

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 152049

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TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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FOR SIMON PARTY/BENNETT

FOLL REPEAT CARACAS 6480 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ABU DHABI BEIRUT
JAKARTA JIDDA KUWAIT LAGOS LIMA LONDON PORT OF SPAIN QUITO
TEHRAN TRIPOLI VIENNA DHAHRAN OECD PARIS 12 JUL 74 QUOTE

UNCLAS CARACAS 6480

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, VE

SUBJECT: NO LET-UP IN VENEZUELAN REACTION TO BENNETT STATEMENT

SUMMARY: VARIOUS POLITICAL PARTIES AND MAJOR ORGANIZATIONS HAVE
ADDED THEIR VOICE OF PROTEST AGAINST BENNETT TESTIMONY TO THOSE
REPORTED IN REFTEL. SEVEN SEPARATE ARTICLES APPEARED IN TWO MAJOR
VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS IN CARACAS MORNING OF JULY 12. END SUMMARY

1. THE LEFTIST POLITICAL PARTIES, MIR AND URD, WERE QUICK TO
TAKE POSITION THAT BENNETT TESTIMONY REPRESENTS OFFICIAL US
POLICY VIS A VIS VENEZUELA. THEY CLAIM THAT BENNETT HOSTILITY
COMMENT CONSTITUTES ACT OF AGRESSION AGAINST SOVEREIGNTY OF OPEC
COUNTRIES AND PARTICULARLY AGAINST VENZUELA, THE MOST RECENT
COUNTRY TO RAISE PRICES AND REDUCE PRODUCTION. THE IMPLICATION
IS THAT SAUDI ARABI AND IRAN (SIC) ARE BEING USED TO BREACH OPEC
FRONT BY CONTRARY POLICY OF INCREASING PRODUCTION AND REDUCING
OIL PRICES. ACCORDING TO THESE PARTIES, VENEZUELA'S BEST ANSWER
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PAGE 02 STATE 152049

IS COMPLETE NATIONALIZATION OF PETROLEUM INDUSTRY. URD PROPOSED

A JOINT SESSION OF VENEZUELAN SENATE AND HOUSE OF DEPUTIES TO
DEBATE BENNETT TESTIMONY.

2. NATIONAL WORKERS CONFEDERATION (CTV) ALSO REJECTED BENNETT
STATEMENT AS WELL AS NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PETROLEUM WORKERS
(FEDEPETROL). THEY DECLARED THEIR SUPPORT FOR NATIONALIZATION OF
PETROLEUM INDUSTRY.

3. VENEZUELAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN WASHINGTON, FELIX ROSSI, WAS
QUOTED UNDER WASHINGTON DATELINE AS SAYING THAT MAJORITY OF
GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONARIES IN WASHINGTON FAMILIAR WITH ENERGY
MATTERS AGREE WITH VENEZUELAN POLICY OF REDUCING PRODUCTION AS
CONSERVATION METHOD. HE SAID THAT VENEZUELAN MEASURES ADOPTED
FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES ARE NO DIFFERENT FROM THOSE APPLIED
IN TEXAS, AND HAVE BEEN WELL ACCEPTED BY AMERICAN PETROLEUM
INDUSTRY.

4. FINALLY, PRINCIPAL OIL COMPANIES APPROACHED BY VENEZUELAN
PRESS DECLINED TO SPECUALTE ON TESTIMONY.
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